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February 1, 2022

Celebrating Black History Month

Dear TCSPP Community,

Today marks the beginning of Black History Month, a time for us to reflect, celebrate, and honor Black culture and history. There are countless achievements for us to celebrate this month, but this cannot be one month of celebration of Black excellence followed by eleven months of neglect of the lessons of that excellence.

This month can and must be an annual opportunity to rededicate ourselves to living out the ideals of those whose accomplishments we celebrate – from the fearless Black civil rights activists marching through protestors to secure the right to vote, to the insightful Black psychologists helping us understand how we form thoughts on race, to the compassionate Black healthcare workers ensuring that we all get through this pandemic together.

Each February, we must step back, give thanks for those who brought us to this point, and set our sights on what we can do over the next eleven months to keep chipping away at the walls of systemic racism standing between us and the realization of a truly just society.

Here at The Chicago School, we will honor Black History Month and point ourselves toward future justice-building. Join our Diversity Advisory Board colleagues at several upcoming events, including a webinar titled “When Did Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts Stop Working?” at 1pm EST/10am PST on February 24. You can register for the event [here](#).

Though not formally part of Black History Month, I also do want to note that The Chicago School will formally honor the triumphs and sacrifices of the Black community by making Juneteenth (June 19) an official university holiday this year and for the years ahead, closing our classrooms and offices on June 17 of this year.

Whether it is as a difference-maker in healthcare, education, criminal justice, or any other field, each of us has the power to take steps toward racial justice. Each of us stands on the shoulders of giants and we must honor the legacies of these trailblazers by cultivating communities that give every person a chance at wellness and happiness.

Warm regards,

Michele

Michele Nealon, Psy.D. President